



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

September 9, 2005

THREE MEN CHARGED WITH HARBORING ILLEGAL ALIENS IN HENDERSON HOME

LAS VEGAS - Three men were indicted yesterday in U.S. District Court here on charges that they smuggled aliens from Mexico to Las Vegas in exchange for money, and harbored them in a Henderson residence.

Jose Aguilar-Alcara, 25, Jose Huizar-Torres, 25, and Alejandro Perez-Ortiz, 22, are each charged with one count of conspiracy to conceal, harbor and transport aliens from Mexico for the purpose of financial gain; one count of transportation of an illegal alien; and one count of harboring an illegal alien. In addition, Aguilar is charged with unlawfully re-entering the United States following deportation. The charges are the result of a joint investigation involving U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Henderson Police Department.

According to the indictment, for a four-day period beginning August 21, 2005, the defendants harbored and concealed an alien in a residence at 2653 Hourglass Drive, in Henderson, Nevada, and transported approximately 10 aliens from Las Vegas to other destinations in the United States.

The defendants have been in custody since their arrest in late August. According to the criminal complaint filed at the time of their arrest, a resident of Hourglass Drive called the Henderson Police Department August 24 to report that a distraught woman had come to her home seeking emergency assistance. When police officers responded, the distraught woman reported that she had paid individuals to smuggle her from Mexico into the United States. She stated that she was initially taken to Phoenix and moved to Las Vegas August 21 with 25 other migrants. The woman told officers that she had been held by the defendants at 2653 Hourglass Drive since arriving in Las Vegas and that she had been physically prevented from leaving the house. She reported that she escaped August 24 and ran to the neighbor's house. All three defendants were arrested in the area.

If convicted on the charges, the three men face up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine on each of the counts. In addition, Aguilar faces up to two years in prison on the unlawful re-entry charge. If the men are convicted, the indictment also seeks the forfeiture of the home at 2653 Hourglass Drive, five automobiles, a laptop computer, and five cellular telephones.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.